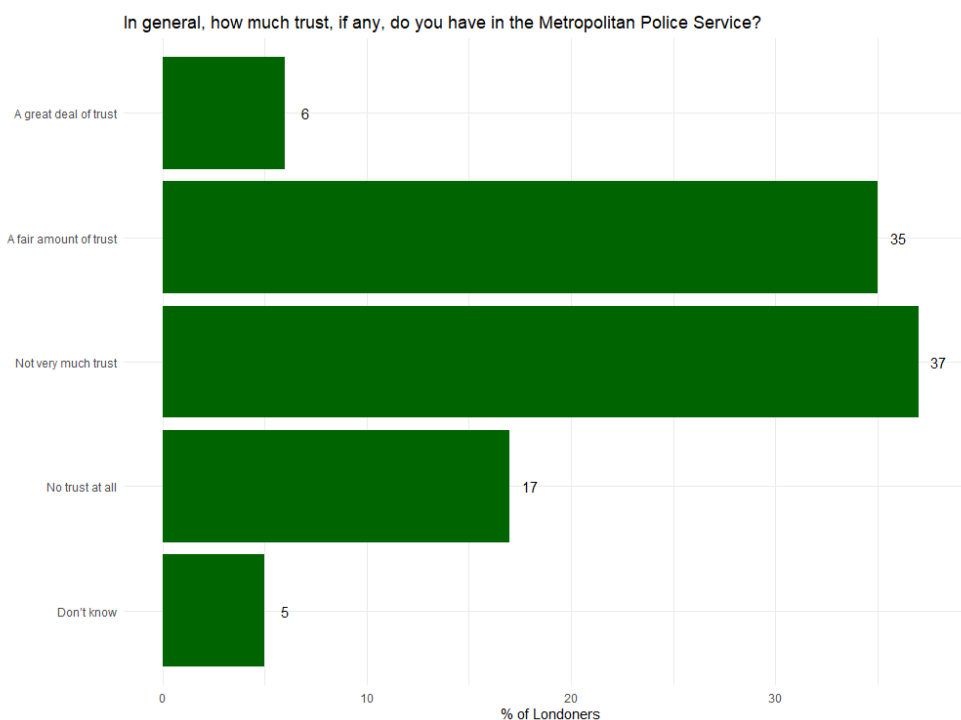


The crisis of trust in the Metropolitan Police is worsening, but could be alleviated by diversifying the force

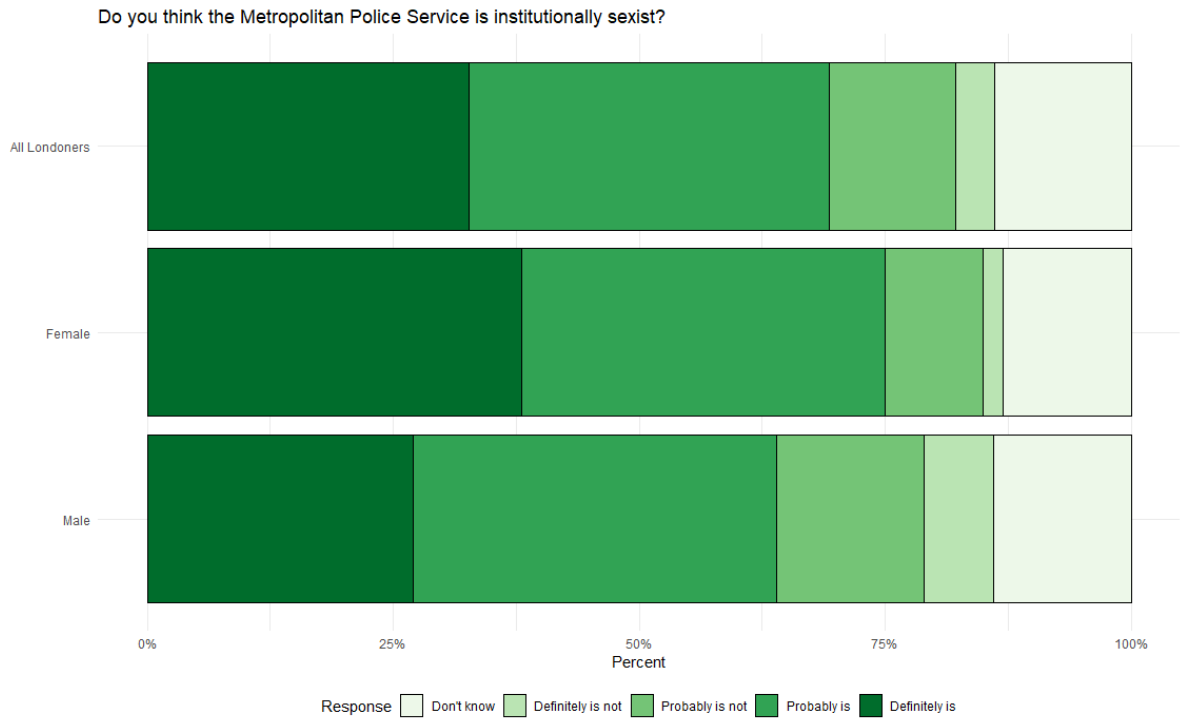
A recent poll conducted by the Mile End Institute at Queen Mary University of London shows that there has been a significant erosion of trust in the Metropolitan Police across the capital since Spring 2022.

Today, 41 per cent of Londoners say they trust the Metropolitan Police, although just 6 per cent say they have 'a great deal of trust' in the service as shown in the figure below. However, the majority (54 per cent) of Londoners do not trust the Metropolitan Police: 37 per cent say they do not have 'very much' trust in the service while 17 per cent say they have 'no trust at all'. This equates to a net trust score of -13 percentage points. [When we asked Londoners the same question in Spring 2022](#), we found a net trust score of -5 percentage points, indicating that there has been a considerable erosion in the level of trust in the Metropolitan Police among Londoners over a relatively short time period.

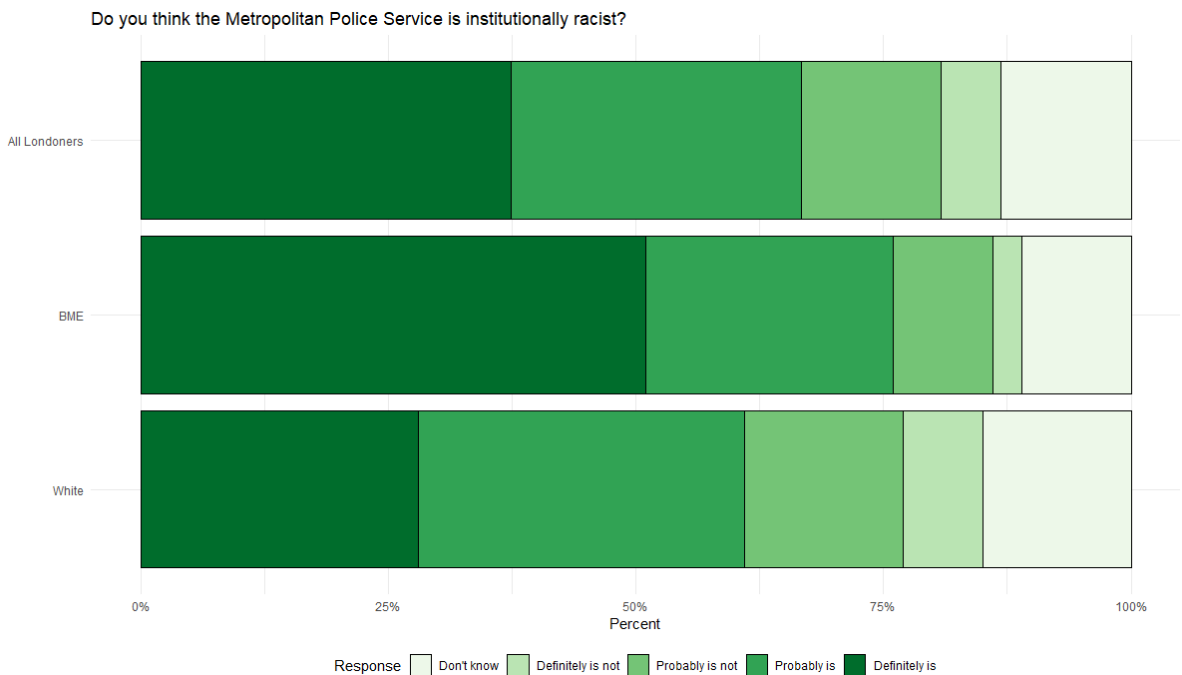


Trust in the Metropolitan Police is particularly low among women (58 per cent don't trust the Metropolitan Police), those living in South London (where 58 per cent don't trust the Metropolitan Police) and BME Londoners (57 per cent don't trust the Metropolitan Police).

In addition, more than two thirds of Londoners (70 per cent) think the Metropolitan Police is institutionally sexist (up from 63 per cent in Spring 2022). While the majority of both men and women living in London agree that the Metropolitan Police is institutionally sexist, the figure below clearly demonstrates that this view is more widely held among women; meanwhile three quarters (75 per cent) of women living in London feel that the Metropolitan Police is institutionally sexist compared to 64 per cent of men.



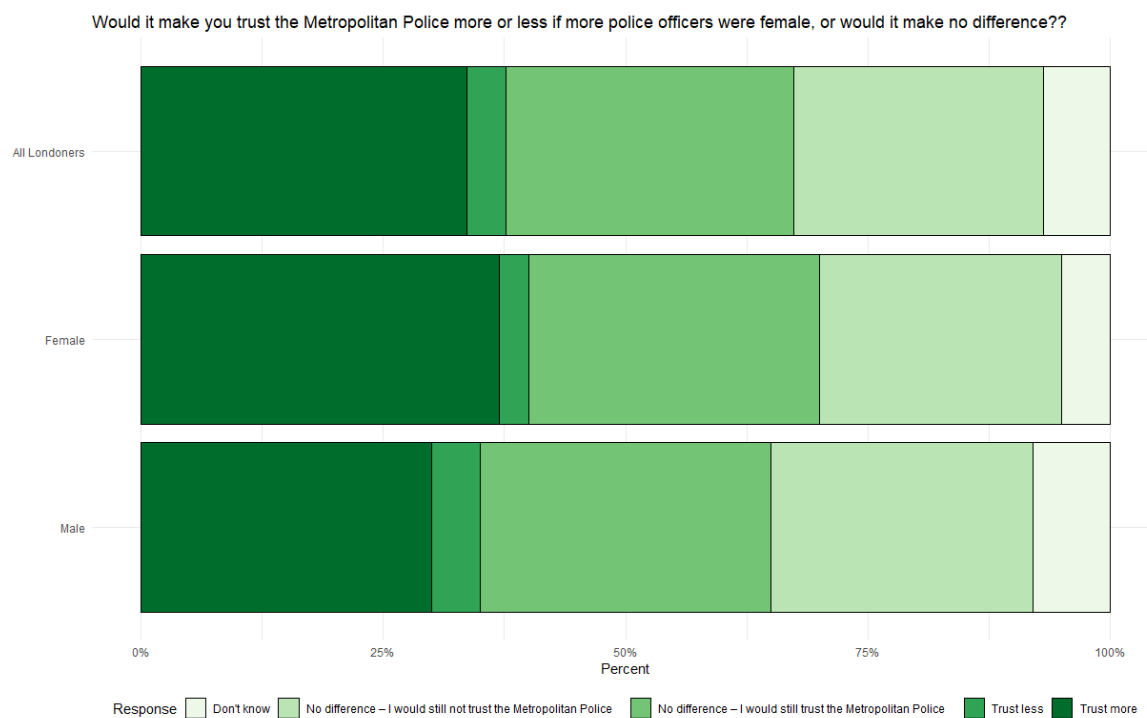
66 per cent of Londoners believe the Metropolitan Police is institutionally racist (compared to 64 per cent in Spring 2022), while just 20 per cent think it is not. While the majority of all Londoners believe the Metropolitan Police is institutionally racist, that view is more widely held among BME Londoners: 76 per cent think the Metropolitan Police is institutionally racist, compared to 61 per cent of white Londoners.



Our poll suggests that while the crisis of trust in the Metropolitan Police is worsening, the situation could be alleviated somewhat by taking steps to diversify the force.

34 per cent of Londoners say they would be more likely to trust the Metropolitan Police if more of its officers were women; and 26 per cent say they would be more likely to trust the Metropolitan Police if more of its officers were from ethnic minority groups.

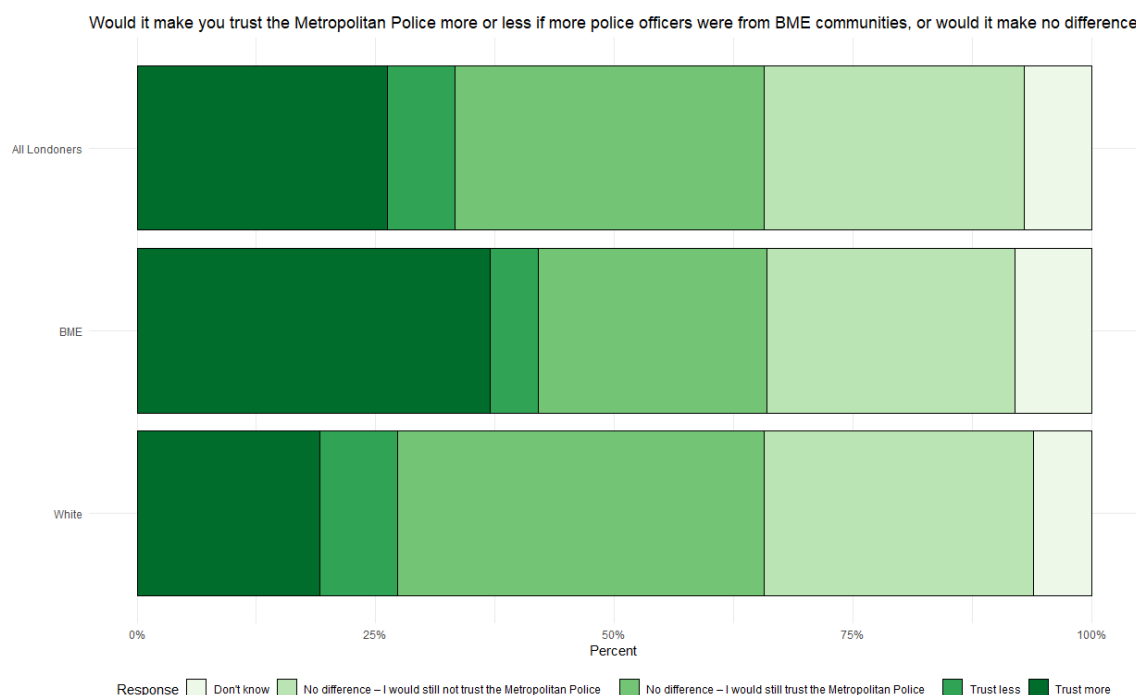
The figure below shows this desire for more female officers in the Metropolitan Police is not driven solely by women. While this preference is stronger among women than men - with 37 per cent of women living in London saying they would trust the Metropolitan Police more if there were more female officers compared to 30 per cent of men - it is still substantial among men.



The desire for more ethnic minority officers in the Metropolitan Police, however, is felt much more strongly among BME Londoners than white Londoners. This is demonstrated by the figure below which shows that while 37 per cent of BME Londoners say they would trust the Metropolitan Police more if there were more ethnic minority officers, just 19 per cent of white Londoners say the same.

Our poll shows that for a sizeable proportion of women and BME communities in London, having more officers ‘like them’ in the Metropolitan Police would contribute to making them feel more trusting of the service, and is likely to make them feel safer living in London. The Metropolitan Police should strive to be more representative of the community it serves. Becoming so will not only benefit currently under-represented groups – women and BME communities – but will have wider benefits as many white and male Londoners also report they would trust the Metropolitan Police more if it became more diverse.

Although the crisis of trust in the Metropolitan Police is getting worse, our polling suggests Londoners’ trust in the service could to some extent be restored if the Metropolitan Police increased the diversity of their workforce. The Metropolitan Police remains largely male and white – [as identified in the Casey Review](#) – and taking steps to change this would make many Londoners, not just women and those from BME communities, feel safer.



Data tables are available here: [QMUL London Tabs Oct23 Part2.xls \(live.com\)](#)

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from fieldwork conducted by YouGov Plc for the Mile End Institute (which should be credited as the commissioner and designer of the survey). Fieldwork was conducted online between 12th – 17th October 2023. Total sample size was 1,066 adults living in inner and outer London. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults living in London (aged 18+). YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council and abide by their rules.